

Press Release

PRIMECARE HEALTH TO REQUIRE COVID-19 VACCINATIONS FOR ALL EMPLOYEES.

Initiative aims to maintain the health of staff and patients as rates of infection from COVID-19 and its variants increase.

As rates of infection begin to increase due to the COVID-19 Delta variant, PrimeCare Health, A Federally Qualified Health Center (FQHC) and Nonprofit, has decided to require all employees to receive the COVID-19 vaccine by Wednesday, September 1st.

“We gave this decision a lot of thought and ultimately decided that patient safety and the ability for community members to receive primary care comes first. These communities were hard hit during the first wave of the pandemic. We require action to prevent this from getting worse for a second time.” -Lynn Hopkins, CEO

The current plan will require all unvaccinated staff to complete their first dose of the vaccine by Wednesday, September 1st. PrimeCare Health will offer continued support and education to its unvaccinated staff. Qualifying medical or religious exemptions will be considered but need approval as with any other workplace vaccine requirements. As of August 4, 2021, ninety percent of PrimeCare employees have been fully vaccinated.

“The Delta variant appears to spread more easily than other variants and is the reason for the increased COVID-19 case rates we have seen in recent weeks. The available COVID-19 vaccines are safe and effective against these emerging variants, especially against severe illness and death. As a community health center, we have a duty to protect our patients, our frontline workers and our families.” Dr. Jim Christoforidis, CMO

Based on current city-wide vaccination rates, a significant number of residents are either unvaccinated or partially vaccinated. The real potential of a second resurgence is possible, and PrimeCare Health wants to ensure the safety of all communities.

“We need to reduce the threat of transmission in our communities. As medical care providers, we know the toll the pandemic took on those we serve. We are committed to keeping all community members safe and encourage everyone to get vaccinated.” -Lynn Hopkins, CEO

PrimeCare Health joins other FQHCs, including AHS Family Health Center, CommunityHealth, and Esperanza Health Centers, who had made their announcement on July 28th.

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